

**PLEASE AMEND THIS APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:**

**In the Claims:**

Amend claims 300, 315, 321, 328, 347, 364, 365, 376, 377, 382, 383, 394, 395, 400, 401, 406, 407, 439 and 442 as follows:

F 1  
300. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim 299, wherein said analyte nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of an oligo- or polyribonucleotide, an oligo- or polydeoxyribonucleotide, a poly-purine, a poly-pyrimidine and [an] a nucleotide analog-containing nucleic acid polymer, or any combination of the foregoing.

F 2  
315. (Amended) The composition according to claim 310, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of an oligo- or polyribonucleotide, an oligo- or polydeoxyribonucleotide, a poly-purine, a poly-pyrimidine and [an] a nucleotide analog-containing [polymer] oligo- or polynucleotide, or any combination of the foregoing.

F 3  
321. (Amended) The composition according to claim 316, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of an oligo- or polyribonucleotide, an oligo- or polydeoxyribonucleotide, a poly-purine, a poly-pyrimidine and [an] a nucleotide analog-containing [polymer] oligo- or polynucleotide, or any combination of the foregoing.

F 4  
328. (Amended) The composition according to claim 327, wherein said signalling entity oligo- or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of an oligo- or polyribonucleotide, an oligo- or polydeoxyribonucleotide, a poly-purine, a poly-pyrimidine and [an] a nucleotide analog-containing [polymer] oligo- or polynucleotide, or any combination of the foregoing.

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347. (Amended) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signal generating portion or said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides are capable of being detected by a member selected from the group consisting of an enzymatic measurement, a fluorescent measurement, a phosphorescent measurement, a chemiluminescent measurement, a colorimetric measurement, a microscopic measurement, an electron density measurement, and a radioactive measurement [and a binding step on an insoluble phase].

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364. (Amended) The process according to claims 443, [444,] 445, [446,] or 447 [or 448], characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said analyte with said bridging entity to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said signalling entity to form said complex recited in said forming step.

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365. (Amended) The process according to claims 443, [444,] 445, [446,] or 447 [or 448], characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said bridging entity with said signalling entity under conditions sufficient to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said analyte under conditions sufficient to form said complex recited in said forming step.

376. (Amended) The process according to claim 375, wherein fixing or immobilizing the analyte takes place before forming the complex in said complex forming step.

377. (Amended) The process according to claim 375, wherein fixing or immobilizing the analyte takes place after forming the complex in said complex forming step.

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382. (Twice Amended) The process according to claims 449, [450,] 451, [452,] or 453 [or 454], characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said analyte with said bridging entity to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said signalling entity to form said complex recited in said forming step.

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383. (Twice Amended) The process according to claims 449, [450,] 451, [452,] or 453 [or 454], characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said bridging entity with said signalling entity under conditions sufficient to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said analyte to form said complex recited in said forming step.

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394. (Amended) The process according to claim 393, wherein fixing or immobilizing the analyte takes place before forming the complex in said complex forming step.

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395. (Amended) The process according to claim 393, wherein fixing or immobilizing the analyte takes place after forming the complex in said complex forming step.

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400. (Twice Amended) The process according to claims 455, [456,] 457 or 458, characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said fixed or immobilized analyte with said bridging entity to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said signalling entity to form said complex comprising said composition and said analyte recited in said forming step.

P10

401. (Twice Amended) The process according to claims 455, [456,] 457 or 458, characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said bridging entity with said signalling entity under conditions sufficient to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said fixed or immobilized analyte under conditions sufficient to form said complex comprising said composition and said analyte recited in said forming step.

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406. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 459 [or 460], characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said fixed or immobilized analyte with said bridging entity to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said signalling entity to form said complex comprising said composition and said analyte recited in said forming step.

F-1 407. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 459 [or 460], characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said bridging entity with said signalling entity under conditions sufficient to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the fixed or immobilized analyte with the first complex under conditions sufficient to form said complex comprising said composition and said analyte recited in said forming step.

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439. (Amended) The process according to claims [363] 442, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 458 or 459, wherein said step of detecting the analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex comprises carrying out a binding step on an insoluble phase.

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442. (Amended) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:  
F13 providing the composition of claim [441] 462;  
forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and  
detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

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Add new claims 461-463 as follows:

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F14 -- 461. (NEW) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signal generating portion or said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides are capable of being detected by a binding member in an insoluble phase. --

-- 462. (NEW) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 286, 287, 288, 289, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein the nucleic acid in said molecular bridging entity recognizing first portion and said molecular bridging entity nucleic acid second portion are incapable of hybridizing to identical oligo- or polynucleotide sequences. --

P4 -- 463. (NEW) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging entity comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid-protein polymer, a nucleic acid-polypeptide polymer, a nucleic acid-polysaccharide polymer and a polypeptide-polysaccharide polymer, said polymer comprising one or more chemically modified purines, one or more chemically modified pyrimidines, one or more chemically modified sugar moieties, or one or more chemically modified phosphate moieties, or a combination of any of the foregoing. --

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Cancel claim 440.

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